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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/650,489

**Applicant(s)**

JOHNSON ET AL.

**Examiner**

Fathi Abdelsalam

**Art Unit**

3689

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/28/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20071128
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is a non-final, first office action on the merits in response to applicant's communication filed on 10/03/2008, wherein claims 1-25 are currently pending. Upon further review of claims, examiner rescinds original restriction, therefore all claims herein are being fully considered.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 8/26/2004 is being considered by the examiner.

***Examiner's Interpretive Notice***

3. Applicant recites the term "including" in the preamble of the claims. Examiner will read this in the same context as the word "comprising."

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-8 and 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on Supreme Court precedent, and recent Federal Circuit decisions, the Office's guidance to examiners is that a § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or

materials) to a different state or thing. *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780,787-88 (1876).

An example of a method claim that would not qualify as a statutory process would be a claim that recited purely mental steps. Thus, to qualify as a § 101 statutory process, the claim should positively recite the other statutory class (the thing or product) to which it is tied, for example by identifying the apparatus that accomplishes the method steps, or positively recite the subject matter that is being transformed, for example by identifying the material that is being changed to a different state.

Here, applicant's method steps, fail the first prong of the new Federal Circuit decision since they are not tied to another statutory class and can be performed without the use of a particular apparatus. Thus all the method claims herein and as an example, claim 1, describe a method nominally tied, at best, to a "plurality of connected electronic devices networked to a business transaction centre", wherein no functional tie or transformation takes place. The only actions explicitly tied to the system are non-functional generic actions such as characterizing and translating data. The actual functional material crucial to applicant's claimed invention, such as the recited identifying, creating, and generating steps, are not explicitly tied to the claimed apparatus or necessarily performed by such, and thus deemed non-statutory.

6. Claims 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claimed invention does not fall

within at least one of the four categories of patent eligible subject matter recited in 35 U.S.C. 101 (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter) because claims 11 and 23 are directed to "software," which is deemed software *per se*, and therefore considered disembodied functional descriptive material. A computer software application *per se* does not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer application and other claimed elements of a computer which permit the computer application's functionality to be realized.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-9, 12-18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1, and throughout applicant's claims, the following two phrases are recited: "the calling device" and "the answering device" denoted in brackets and parenthesis. It is unclear as to whether these items are actually a part of the claimed invention or not. If so, examiner requests the denotations be removed to avoid confusion as to the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

In regards to claims 12 and 22, the statement: "running a program on one or more computers so as to integrate software processes, the processes including" is

actually only explicitly claiming running a program. If applicant would like to claim the steps listed after the colon, then the explicit mention thereto should be made clear.

Lastly, in regards to claims 23-25, the claims are rendered indefinite because the applicant is attempting to incorporate claim limitations by reference without stating them clearly in the claim language, which is improper.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Symonds et al. (US 6039245), hereinafter referred to as Symonds.

11. Regarding **Claim 1**:

Symonds discloses a method of transacting business including:

connecting a plurality of electronic devices across a network to a business transaction centre ([col. 3, line 20], "The computers are connected through interfaces and device drivers to external devices which include authorization systems or networks and terminal devices");

each electronic device having an electronic identity ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol portion 74 also operates to provide a data item representative of the identity or

physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming"). See also at least ([col 12, line 60], "The NODE.sub.-- SID is the system identifier used in the system to identify the particular component in the system which sends or receives a message"); and

a predetermined data transmission protocol for transmitting data and/or receiving data and a capability of performing part of a business transaction ([col. 6, line 57], "The network uses the TCP/IP network communication protocol which is known to those skilled in the art");

characterizing each electronic device connected to the business transaction centre according to its electronic identity and its data transmission protocol ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol portion 74 also operates to provide a data item representative of the identity or physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming");

creating a database of information relating to a plurality of trading partners having one or more of the plurality of interconnected electronic devices ([col. 3, line 40], "a relational database which is programmed with database table records which includes data representative of the message formats used by each type of terminal device and external authorization system to which the system is connected");

generating an electronic business call document by way of one of the plurality of interconnected electronic devices ([abstract], "which process messages and generate messages to the external devices and authorization systems");

the call document having a predetermined call document format See also at least ([abstract], "a common internal message format used within the system"); and

translating the call document to an intermediate format ([abstract], "converts the outgoing messages from the internal message format to the external message formats which can be interpreted by the external devices and systems to which the messages are directed");

identifying another one of the plurality on interconnected electronic devices ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol portion 74 also operates to provide a data item representative of the identity or physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming");

translating the call document from the intermediate format to a predetermined answering document format ([abstract], "components message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats"); and

sending the translated call document to said answering device ([col. 6, line 25], "which can send and receive messages from the terminal device to which it is connect").

12. Regarding **Claim 2**:

Symonds discloses the method according to claim 1, including sending the call document to a business transaction centre comprising one or more computers ([col. 6, line 26], "the external authorization systems 18 send and receive messages to and from the remainder of the system"). See also at least ([col. 6, line 5], "It should be understood



that the present invention is intended to be used to communicate with a wide variety of terminal devices which may be connected to the system either individually or as part of a group of devices networked together")

13. Regarding **Claim 3**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the database of information includes information relating to identity of the trading partners, the format in which documents are to be sent and received, data transmission protocols for the trading partners electronic devices, authentication data, and encryption data ([abstract], "The transaction processing system may operate to authorize transactions internally using information stored in a relational database");

Furthermore, the information in the database is non-functional descriptive material. When presented with a claim comprising descriptive material, an Examiner must determine whether the claimed nonfunctional descriptive material should be given patentable weight. The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) must consider all claim limitations when determining patentability of an invention over the prior art. In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401,404 (Fed. Cir. 1983). The PTO may not disregard claim limitations comprised of printed matter. See Gulack, 703 F.2d at 1384-85,217 USPQ at 403; see also Diamond v. Diehr, 450 U.S. 175, 191,209 USPQ 1, 10 (1981). However, the examiner need not give patentable weight to descriptive material absent a new and unobvious functional relationship between the descriptive material and the substrate. See In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir.

1994); In re Ngai, 367 F.3d 1336, 1338, 70 USPQ2d 1862, 1863-64 (Fed. Cir. 2004).

Thus, when the prior art describes all the claimed structural and functional relationships between the descriptive material and the substrate, but the prior art describes a different descriptive material than the claim, then the descriptive material is nonfunctional and will not be given any patentable weight. That is, such a scenario presents no new and unobvious functional relationship between the descriptive material and the substrate.

The Examiner asserts that the data of information in the aforementioned database adds little, if anything, to the claimed acts or steps and thus do not serve as limitations on the claims to distinguish over the prior art. MPEP 2106IV b 1(b) indicates that "nonfunctional descriptive material" is material "that cannot exhibit any functional interrelationship with the way the steps are performed". Any differences related merely to the meaning and information conveyed through data which does not explicitly alter or impact the steps is non-functional descriptive data. Thus, the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

14. Regarding **Claim 4**:

Symonds discloses a method of transacting business including:  
generating an electronic business call document by way of one of a plurality of interconnected electronic devices in a network ("the calling device"), the call document having a predetermined call document format ([abstract], "which process messages and generate messages to the external devices and authorization systems");

translating the call document to an intermediate format ([abstract], "converts the outgoing messages from the internal message format to the external message formats which can be interpreted by the external devices and systems to which the messages are directed");

identifying another electronic device ("the answering device") to which the call document is to be sent ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol portion 74 also operates to provide a data item representative of the identity or physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming");

translating the call document from the intermediate format to a predetermined answering document format ([abstract], "components message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats"); and

sending the translated call document to said answering device ([col. 6, line 25], "which can send and receive messages from the terminal device to which it is connect").

15. Regarding **Claim 5**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 4, including sending the call document to a business transaction centre comprising one or more computers ([col. 6, line 26], "the external authorization systems 18 send and receive messages to and from the remainder of the system"). See also at least ([col. 6, line 5], "It should be understood that the present invention is intended to be used to communicate with a wide variety of

terminal devices which may be connected to the system either individually or as part of a group of devices networked together").

16. Regarding **Claim 6**:

Symonds discloses a method of transacting business including:

creating a database of information relating to a plurality of trading partners having electronic devices connected to each other in a network ([col. 3, line 40], "a relational database which is programmed with database table records which includes data representative of the message formats used by each type of terminal device and external authorization system to which the system is connected");

generating an electronic business call document for one trading partner via its electronic device ("the calling device") the call document having a predetermined call document format ([abstract], "which process messages and generate messages to the external devices and authorization systems");

translating the call document to an intermediate format ([abstract], "converts the outgoing messages from the internal message format to the external message formats which can be interpreted by the external devices and systems to which the messages are directed");

identifying another trading partner by which the call document is to be received via its electronic device ("the answering device") by reference to information in the call document ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol portion 74 also operates to provide a data item

representative of the identity or physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming”);

translating the call document from the intermediate format to a predetermined answering document format by reference to the information in the database relating to the other trading partner ([abstract], “components message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats”); and

sending the translated call document to the answering device ([col. 6, line 25], “which can send and receive messages from the terminal device to which it is connect”).

17. Regarding **Claim 7**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 6, including sending the call document to a business transaction centre comprising one or more computers ([col. 6, line 26], “the external authorization systems 18 send and receive messages to and from the remainder of the system”). See also at least ([col. 6, line 5], “It should be understood that the present invention is intended to be used to communicate with a wide variety of terminal devices which may be connected to the system either individually or as part of a group of devices networked together”).

18. Regarding **Claim 8**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 6, wherein the database of information includes information relating to identity of the trading partners, the format in

which documents are to be sent and received, data transmission protocols for the trading partners electronic devices, authentication data, and encryption data ([abstract], "The transaction processing system may operate to authorize transactions internally using information stored in a relational database"); Furthermore, the information in the database is non-functional descriptive material (see paragraph disclosing full explanation above).

19. Regarding **Claim 9**:

Symonds discloses a system for transacting business, including:

a business transaction centre having means for managing a business transaction among a plurality of trading partners and a plurality of electronic devices in communication with said business transaction centre for data transmission between said centre and each of the trading partners ([abstract], "A financial transaction processing system (10) enables processing transactions from various types of card activated terminal devices (12) which communicate using a variety of electronic message formats"). See also at least ([col. 6, line 5], "It should be understood that the present invention is intended to be used to communicate with a wide variety of terminal devices which may be connected to the system either individually or as part of a group of devices networked together").

said business transaction centre having a database of information relating to the identity and characteristics of each electronic device for performing part of a business transaction and processing means for processing data transmissions received from one

or more of said plurality of electronic devices and associating them with one or more of others of said plurality of electronic devices by reference to the information in the database to complete the business transaction between the trading partners ([abstract], "The transaction processing system may operate to authorize transactions internally using information stored in a relational database...to convert messages from a variety of external message formats used by the external devices and authorization systems").

20. Regarding **Claim 10**:

Symonds discloses a system according to claim 9, wherein the database of information includes information relating to identity of the trading partners, the format in which documents are to be sent and received, data transmission protocols for the trading partners electronic devices, authentication data, and encryption data ([abstract], "The transaction processing system may operate to authorize transactions internally using information stored in a relational database...to convert messages from a variety of external message formats used by the external devices and authorization systems"). Furthermore, the information in the database is non-functional descriptive material (see paragraph disclosing full explanation above).

21. Regarding **Claim 11**:

Symonds discloses software for transacting business between trading partners, including:

a data transmission module operable for transmitting data to and from a business transaction centre to and from a plurality of remote electronic devices according to a data transmission protocol ([claim 5], "message processing software, wherein the computer is in operative connection with the message processing software, and wherein the message processing software is operative when an internal format message is being sent to the external device"). See also at least ([col. 3, line 25], "Transaction messages are transmitted from the terminal devices to an authorization subsystem or network").

an identity module operable for identifying the remote electronic devices communicating with the business transaction centre ([col 12, line 60], "The NODE.sub.--SID is the system identifier used in the system to identify the particular component in the system which sends or receives a message");

a characterizing module operatively associated with said identity module and operable to characterize the plurality of remote electronic devices according to their characteristics for performing part of a business transaction ([claim 6], "identities of a plurality of nodes, wherein each of a plurality of system components including each external device, each MGR and each other software function corresponds to a node, and wherein the database includes in correlated relation with at least one node identity, a parent node identity"); and

a processing module operatively associated with said characterizing module and operable to process data transmissions from each of the plurality of remote electronic devices to others of the plurality of remote electronic devices according to the identity



and characteristics of the electronic devices to complete a business transaction ([claim 10], "a computer, and a message processing program software function (MPP) in operative connection with the computer").

22. Regarding **Claim 12**:

Symonds discloses a method of transacting business including:

running a program on one or more computers so as to integrate software processes ([claim 10], "a computer, and a message processing program software function (MPP) in operative connection with the computer"),

the processes including:

transmitting data to a business transaction centre from a plurality of remote electronic devices according to one or more data transmission protocols ([col. 3, line 25], "Transaction messages are transmitted from the terminal devices to an authorization subsystem or network");

providing a database of information relating to a plurality of trading partners having one or more of the electronic devices ([col. 3, line 40], "a relational database which is programmed with database table records which includes data representative of the message formats used by each type of terminal device and external authorization system to which the system is connected");

identifying an electronic device from which data is being received ("the calling device") by reference to the information in the database ([col. 12, line 5], "The protocol

portion 74 also operates to provide a data item representative of the identity or physical address of the particular terminal from which the message is coming");

processing the data received from the calling device to identify an electronic device to which data is to be sent ("the answering device"), the answering device being operable to receive data in a predetermined answering device format ([claim 5], "message processing software is operative when an internal format message is being sent to the external device to include in the message a message direction indicator"). See also at least ([claim 20], "a transformation of each of a first plurality of messages between an external message format and an internal message format; an identity of each of a second plurality of external devices; and for each device identity, an external message format for messages communicated to and from the device");

converting the data transmitted from the calling device to the answering device format according to the characteristics of the identified answering device ([claim 2], "wherein the computer is operative to transform an incoming message from a message sending one of the plurality of external devices from the external format used by the message sending one external device to the internal format, and to transform an outgoing message to a message receiving one of the plurality of external devices from the internal message format to the external message format used by the message receiving one external device, and wherein the computer is operative to cause the incoming and outgoing messages to be transformed responsive to the message identifier value and the field conversion data associated with each respective message");

transmitting the converted data to the answering device ([col. 3, line 25], "Transaction messages are transmitted from the terminal devices to an authorization subsystem or network").

23. Regarding **Claim 13**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 12, including sending the call document to a business transaction centre comprising one or more computers ([col. 6, line 26], "the external authorization systems 18 send and receive messages to and from the remainder of the system"). See also at least ([col. 6, line 5], "It should be understood that the present invention is intended to be used to communicate with a wide variety of terminal devices which may be connected to the system either individually or as part of a group of devices networked together").

24. Regarding **Claim 14**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 13, wherein the translation of the document is carried out in the business transaction centre by reference to the information in the call document ([abstract], "components message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats");

25. Regarding **Claim 15 and 16**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 14, wherein the database of information includes information relating to identity of the trading partners, the format in which documents are to be sent and received, data transmission protocols for the trading partners electronic devices, authentication data, and encryption data and wherein the information in the database is sufficient to enable reference of a plurality of different kinds of call documents relating to different kinds of business transactions. ([col. 3, line 40], "a relational database which is programmed with database table records which includes data representative of the message formats used by each type of terminal device and external authorization system to which the system is connected"). See also ([claim 4], "database includes data representative of an identity of the one external device"). See also ([col. 11, line 33], "Other messages transmitted to or from POS terminal 68 may include messages associated with encrypting or decrypting data"). Furthermore, the information in the database is non-functional descriptive material (see paragraph disclosing full explanation above).

26. Regarding **Claim 17**:

Claim 17 recites substantially similar limitations to claims 1-2 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rational set forth above.

27. Regarding **Claim 18**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 16, including providing trading channels operable to facilitate communications according to each data transmission

protocol as software modules within or forming part of the business transaction centre ([col. 14, line 9], "The Message Gateway Router: As shown in FIGS. 4 and 11, the message gateway router MGR 81 takes the message from the IPC 80 out of the input queue of that MGR. At this point the message structure includes the raw message that was sent by the terminal 68 in field 12 of the SME without the protocol portions of the original message.")

28. Regarding **Claim 19**:

Symonds discloses a method of transacting business, including:

connecting a plurality of electronic devices across a network ([col. 3, line 20], "The computers are connected through interfaces and device drivers to external devices which include authorization systems or networks and terminal devices");

each electronic device having a data transmission protocol and allocating trading channels to the electronic devices according to their respective data transmission protocols ([col. 11, line 66], "Protocol portion 74 is connected to and controls the physical hardware 72 in accordance with its application programming interface ("API").");

providing a database of information relating to the data transmission protocol of each electronic device ([abstract], "components message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats");

processing data transmissions received from one of the plurality of electronic devices for redirection to one or more others of the plurality of electronic devices via the trading channels to which they are connected by reference to the information in the database relating to the data transmission protocols of the other electronic devices ([claim 5], "message processing software is operative when an internal format message is being sent to the external device to include in the message a message direction indicator"). See also at least ([claim 20], "a transformation of each of a first plurality of messages between an external message format and an internal message format; an identity of each of a second plurality of external devices; and for each device identity, an external message format for messages communicated to and from the device").

29. Regarding **Claim 20**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 17, including a plurality of channels, referred to hereinafter as trading channels, operatively interposed between a communications network and a process engine, each trading channel being arranged to provide for communications with one call document format which may be generated by one or more electronic devices ([col. 11, line 66], "Protocol portion 74 is connected to and controls the physical hardware 72 in accordance with its application programming interface ("API").").

30. Regarding **Claim 21**:

Symonds discloses a method according to claim 18, wherein the trading channels are further arranged to provide communications with related call document formats ([col. 14, line 9], "The Message Gateway Router: As shown in FIGS. 4 and 11, the message gateway router MGR 81 takes the message from the IPC 80 out of the input queue of that MGR. At this point the message structure includes the raw message that was sent by the terminal 68 in field 12 of the SME without the protocol portions of the original message.") See also at least ([abstract], "message gateway routers (MGRs) (24, 164) which operate using information stored in the relational database to convert messages from a variety of external message formats used by the external devices and authorization systems, to a common internal message format used within the system.")

31. Regarding **Claim 22**:

Symonds discloses a method, according to claim 19, including running a program on one or more computers so as to integrate software processes including:

remote administration for administering communications between a business transaction centre and a plurality of electronic devices operatively connected thereto ([col. 1, line 33], " In transaction processing systems, transaction messages often must be passed between and processed in several different computer systems. Messages pass from the terminal devices to the remote systems that can authorize and track the transactions. Return messages pass from the remote systems back to the terminal devices")

security for limiting unauthorized access to the business transaction centre ([abstract], "The transaction processing system may operate to authorize transactions internally using information stored in a relational database (32) or may communicate with external authorization systems");

receiving call documents from some of the electronic devices, each call document having a call document format (FIG. 8 is a schematic view that shows a message being received from an external authorization system or other external network by the system of the present invention);

translating call document formats to an intermediate format and translated documents from the intermediate format to answering document formats ([abstract], "converts the outgoing messages from the internal message format to the external message formats which can be interpreted by the external devices and systems to which the messages are directed");

managing the transmission of answering documents to answering electronic devices and managing business processes according to the type of business transaction being facilitated ([col. 6, line 26], "the external authorization systems 18 send and receive messages to and from the remainder of the system").

warehousing documents ([col. 29, line 22], "The original line group data for the incoming message could be stored with the messages in the transaction data file in the database");

software process integrity, administration and exception handling and reporting activity in respect of any one or more of the aforementioned software processes ([claim



5], "message processing software, wherein the computer is in operative connection with the message processing software, and wherein the message processing software is operative when an internal format message is being sent to the external device").

32. Regarding **Claim 23**:

Symonds discloses software operable on one or more computers adapted to integrate the software processes substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIG. 1 ([col. 7, lines 26], "It should be understood that the software of the present invention is intended to run on different types of hardware platforms which may be running different operating systems within a distributed processing system connected through the internal TCP/IP network").

33. Regarding **Claims 24 and 25**:

Symonds discloses a method and system of transacting business substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIG. 1; ([See abstract]).

***Conclusion***

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Pre-Grant Publication 20030078858 discloses a system and method for peer-to-peer electronic commerce. US Pre-Grant Publication 20020023215 discloses a method and apparatus for approving a transaction request between an electronic transaction system and a portable electronic authorization device (PEAD). US

Patent 6850901 discloses a universal automated order processing system representing multiple (e.g., hundreds or thousands) participating merchants who offer their products through the system. US Pre-Grant Publication 20040205772 teaches a software architecture supporting deployment of mobile software agents over the Internet.

35. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fathi Abdelsalam whose telephone number is (571) 270-3517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:00-5:00pm ET.

36. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on (571) 272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

37. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. A./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Dennis Ruhl/  
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